

Educational Climate Change 2016 Onwards

The Heathfield Response

The educational climate

- Current examination reforms
 - Move from modular assessment to linear
 - No more coursework/in-class assessment
 - Final examinations at the end of 2 years
 - No more tiers of entry (GCSE) or A Level Units
 - New GCSE / GCE first examination Summer 2017

GCSE

- Graded 9-1 where 9 is the highest and 1 the lowest
- Pass, currently, is a 5 – *probably* ...
- 9-1 Maths and English Language and Literature taught from 2015, most of the others from 2016
- Linear examination so no assessments/coursework in advance
- Currently, a mix of grades received: numbers in English and Maths; letters from old style GCSEs – but not for long
- Untiered papers: Higher/Foundation papers are going

A Levels

- A Levels

- 2 year course
- No examinations at end of the first year
- Lack of information from universities as to their requirements, including re. GCSE English / Maths

- Pathways

- 3 A Levels with EPQ
- 4 A Levels with no EPQ
- 3 A Levels with resit in English / Maths?
- AS Levels?

2016-17

Year 7	First cohort in secondary which will have done new, more demanding primary curriculum and new KS2 scaled tests
Year 8	Will do new GCSEs in English and maths, but will not have experienced new, more demanding primary curriculum
Year 9	
Year 10	First teaching of new GCSEs in sciences, geography, history, MFL, art, dance, drama, music, D&T, computing, citizenship, RE, PE
Year 11	First exams in new GCSEs in English and maths
Lower Sixth	First teaching of new A Levels in mathematics, further mathematics, modern foreign languages (MFL), ancient languages, geography, dance, drama, music, D&T, RE, PE
Upper Sixth	First examination of new A Levels in the sciences (biology, chemistry, physics); psychology; English language, English literature; English language and literature; art and design; business; computer science; economics; history and sociology

2017-18

Year 7	Will do new GCSEs abd will have done new primary curriculum and KS2 scaled tests
Year 8	
Year 9	Will do new GCSEs in English and maths, but will not have experienced new, more demanding primary curriculum
Year 10	New GCSEs in all subjects
Year 11	First examination of new GCSEs in sciences, geography, history MFL, art, dance, drama, music, D&T, computing, citizenship, RE, PE
Lower Sixth	Teaching of new A Levels in all subjects
Upper Sixth	

Wider sixth form issues

- Funding: Proliferation of small, new sixth forms – viability of smaller sixth forms <200 in serious question
- Need to rationalise curricular offer even in medium sized sixth forms – focus on larger subjects – classes typically >15 up to 30
- Four subjects, or three, from year 12? Five will be very unusual

Unanswered questions

- Mix of grades: girls taking GCSEs in 2017 will have numbers and letters
- Essential to pass Maths and English at Grade 5 (?) or to continue taking it until you leave school
- Requirements of universities: value of AS Level and entry requirements re. GCSE English and Maths?

Supporting our girls

○ End of year examinations:

- Reading skills absolutely essential
- Focus on revising all material from the year
- Reading around subjects
- Harder qualifications and more coverage
- **Independent study is key**

○ Revision skills:

- Organisation
- Note taking
- Reviewing information (consolidation)
- Application of knowledge
- **Formal and frequent examination practice under GCSE/GCE regulations**